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for changes of population. However, no local health officer should be satisfied merely to excel previous conditions in his own jurisdiction; he should not be content until he has surpassed the best records in his State and even in the country. The constant aim should be to prevent disease, thereby lessening human suffering and preventing death. By examining the frequent reports of the division of vital statistics of the State board of health, standards for statistical study will be constantly available. Certain it is that health work can not be carried on intelligently without a careful, regular, and intelligent checking up. Whether this is accomplished by simple comparison or by lengthy mathematical calculation, it nevertheless should be done.

Definite results usually follow definite action. When they do not, one of two things is possible: Either the efforts are misdirected and inadequate or peculiar circumstances exist, necessitating a change of tactics. In any event the proof of any health officer's efficiency is his ability to keep the morbidity and mortality rates perceptibly lower in his locality than they are elsewhere.

This can be done most successfully by obtaining a proper public health perspective and concentrating upon the phases of the problem which experience has shown to be necessary in securing the maximum protection against disease.

INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION.

PROCÈS VERBAL OF THE DEPOSIT OF THE RATIFICATIONS BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS, OCTOBER 7, 1920, OF THE INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION SIGNED AT PARIS JANUARY 17, 1912.

International conferences, having for their purpose the formulation of international sanitary regulations, were held in 1892, 1893, and 1894; the Convention of Venice was signed in 1897, and Conventions of Paris were signed in 1903 and 1912.

The general provisions of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris of 1903 prescribed the action to be taken by the countries signing the convention on the appearance of plague or cholera in their territory. The convention contained the following provisions: The notification to the other Governments by each signatory power, of the first appearance of recognized cases of plague or cholera in its territory; the publication by each country of the measures prescribed; the disinfection of merchandise; and measures to be enforced at ports and land frontiers.

The last International Sanitary Convention was signed in Paris on January 17, 1912. This convention made such modifications in the provisions of the Paris Convention of 1903 as were warranted by the new data of prophylactic science and experience; enacted new international regulations in regard to yellow fever; and extended as far as possible the field of application of the principles underlying the

international sanitary regulations. It also provided, in general, rules to be observed by the signatory powers as soon as plague, cholera, or yellow fever should appear in their territory, and measures of defense against contaminated territories. Special measures, applicable to Oriental and Far Eastern countries, were also provided.

The convention was signed by the plenipotentiaries of the following powers: Germany, the United States of America, the Argentine Republic, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Spain, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Luxemburg, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Panama, the Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Salvador, Serbia, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Egypt, and Uruguay.

The last article (160) of the convention set forth that "The present convention shall be ratified and the ratification thereof deposited at Paris as soon as possible." The following is a translation of the procès verbal which the plenipotentiaries of the United States, Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Panama, the Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Egypt signed at the time of depositing the ratifications of their respective Governments on October 7, 1920. The convention was proclaimed by the President of the United States on December 11, 1920.

The representative of the British Government declared that:

"The stipulations of that convention should not apply to any one of the colonies, possessions, or protectorates of His Britannic Majesty, the Empire of India included. However, the British Government reserves for each of its colonies, possessions, and protectorates, including the Empire of India, the right to adhere to the convention as soon as any one of those governments should have manifested a desire so to do, and also the power to give a separate notice of termination without being bound by the decision of the British Government relative to the United Kingdom. Whenever any one of the British colonies, possessions, or protectorates shall adhere to or denounce the convention, a notice to that effect shall be given by the representative of His Britannic Majesty at Paris to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic in behalf of the aforesaid colony, possession, or protectorate.

"It is understood by the British Government that the right to denounce the present convention, as well as that of the powers to devise modifications in the texts of the convention, subsists in accordance with the provisions of the Convention of Venice of 1897 and of that of Paris of 1903."

The representative of the Government of the United States of America declared that his Government ratified, subject to the

reservation that nothing in article 9¹ of the convention shall be considered as prohibiting the United States from taking such specific quarantine methods against the contamination of its ports as may be required by unwonted sanitary conditions. In making this reservation the United States Government does not intend to infringe in any way the fundamental regulations of the convention.

The representative of the Spanish Government declared that his Government reserves to itself the right of interpreting in the broadest sense possible and in accordance with the scientific principles of modern hygiene, paragraph 2 of article 9, in order to avoid, so far as possible, the importation into Spanish ports of the plague and yellow fever, but declares that it is not in mind to refuse its adhesion to anything affecting the fundamental points of the convention.

The representative of the Government of Panama declared that his Government ratified, subject to the reservation that the provisions of article 9 would not prevent the Government of Panama, or that of the United States, in accordance with the treaty signed between the two countries under date of November 18, 1903, from ordering in the ports of the Canal Zone and in those under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Panama such quarantine measures as circumstances may require.

The undersigned made a formal acknowledgment of the reservations hereinabove stated and declared that their respective countries reserved to themselves the right to claim the benefit thereof with respect to arrivals from the United States of America, Spain, and Panama.

The instruments of ratification produced on this date having been found upon examination to be in due form are intrusted to the French Republic to be deposited in the archives of the department of foreign affairs.

With regard to the ratifications of the powers signatory to the convention which were not in position to deposit on this date, the French Republic will receive them later and so notify all the contracting powers.

In witness whereof the present procès-verbal, of which a certified copy will be sent by the Government of the French Republic to each one of the powers signatory to the sanitary convention of January 17, 1912, was drawn up.

Done at Paris, October 7, 1920, at 16 o'clock.

¹ARTICLE 9. In order that an area may be considered as being no longer contaminated, it must be officially stated:

1. That there has neither been a death nor a new case, as regards the plague or cholera, for 5 days and as regards the yellow fever for 18 days, either since the isolation or since the death or cure of the last patient.

2. That all measures of disinfection have been applied. Besides, if it is a case of plague, that the measures against rats have been executed, and, in case of yellow fever, that the precautions against mosquitoes have been taken.